



## MONTANA FLOODPLAIN 2021 RESOURCE SEMINAR

October 18-20, 2021

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### ***“Managing Floods After Droughts and Fires”***

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The DNRC’s Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar offers no-cost training on topics related to management and administration of Montana’s floodplain program. Workshops are available to community members and professionals, including floodplain administrators, county planners, and DES personnel, and any other interested parties. All sessions will be hosted via Zoom.

**Please use the link(s) below to access to the Resource Seminar.**

To access/attend the seminar, a link for each day is given below. You can access one or all workshops and adjust your participation to best fit your schedule.

For assistance, questions, or more information, please contact:

Traci Sears, Montana NFIP/CAP Coordinator at Ph (406) 444-6654 / Email: [tsears@mt.gov](mailto:tsears@mt.gov)

Shylea Wingard, MT NFIP/CAP Assistant at Ph (406) 444-1343 / Email: [swingard@mt.gov](mailto:swingard@mt.gov)

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## SEMINAR ACCESS VIA ZOOM

Topic: Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar - Day 1 - October 18th

Time: Oct 18, 2021 08:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88127035753?pwd=eFpvWGt6M2JRczdIWFA5RDFSSkxRZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 2703 5753

Password: 202795

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Topic: Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar - Day 2 - October 19th

Time: Oct 19, 2021 08:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81572907810?pwd=TXcwREZDZjJZM2NldHg3VnFLUmdUQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 7290 7810

Password: 395075

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Topic: Montana Floodplain Resource Seminar - Day 3 - October 20th

Time: Oct 20, 2021 08:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/86781176911?pwd=RkUySkVQclJ3c2xOQ0hKaHVCWExaUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 8117 6911

Password: 858653

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## *“Managing Floods After Droughts and Fires”*

### AGENDA

**Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

#### National Flood Insurance and Montana Floodplain Programs

9:00 am – 10:00 am

##### **The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

###### **Description**

Always a good information whether you are new to floodplain management or a long-time floodplain administrator. This workshop provides an overview of the National Flood Insurance Program including community responsibilities, recovery, and compliance. **CECs:** PENDING

**Presenter:** Stephanie DiBetitto – NFIP Specialist | FEMA Region VIII, Mitigation | Floodplain Management & Insurance | [Stephanie.dibetitto@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Stephanie.dibetitto@fema.dhs.gov).

**Speaker Bio:** Stephanie works in Denver, CO and works closely with state NFIP partners in Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota. Prior to joining FEMA, she was the NFIP Coordinator for Colorado. She holds a Master of Science in Public Administration and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and frequently rafts the Colorado River.

10:00 am – 11:00 am

##### **Montana’s Path to Floodplain Management**

###### **Description**

This workshop will present a history of Montana’s floodplain program and provide interesting background as to how its progressive regulations continue to reduce community flood losses and damages. **CECs: Pending**

**Presenter:** Traci Sears – NFIP/CAP Coordinator, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | [tsears@mt.gov](mailto:tsears@mt.gov)

**Speaker Bio:** Traci has worked as the Montana NFIP Coordinator for over 15 years. Prior to joining the DNRC, she was a planner and floodplain administrator for Flathead County.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

##### **Risk Rating 2.0 – Equity in Action**

###### **Description**

FEMA is updating the National Flood Insurance Program's risk rating methodology through the implementation of a new pricing methodology called Risk Rating 2.0 - Equity in Action. The methodology leverages industry best practices and cutting-edge technology to enable FEMA to deliver rates that are actuarially sound, equitable, easier to understand and better reflect a property's flood risk. **CECs: Pending**

**Presenter:** Diana Herrera – Sr. Regional Flood Insurance Liaison | Mitigation Division | FEMA Region 8 | [Diana.herrera@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Diana.herrera@fema.dhs.gov)

**Speaker Bio:** Diana graduated from Louisiana State University and has worked for FEMA for over 15 years.



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## *“Managing Floods After Droughts and Fires”*

### AGENDA

**Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

#### Wildfire Mitigation, Montana 2021 Fire Activity, and Flood After Fire

9:00 am – 10:00 am

#### **Flash Flood and Debris Flow Concerns from the 2021 Forest Fires in Montana**

**Description:** Hydrologist, Arin Peters, will provide an in depth look at the impacts and potential flooding concerns from the devastating 2021 fires in Eastern Montana. Fellow weather service hydrologist for Western Montana, Ray Nickless, will look at possible flash flood and debris flow concerns from the Boulder 2700 fire near Flathead Lake, MT and the Thorne Creek Fire Complex near Thompson Falls, MT. **CECs: Pending**

**Presenters:**

Arin J Peters – Senior Service Hydrologist | NOAA National Weather Service | [arin.peters@noaa.gov](mailto:arin.peters@noaa.gov)

Ray Nickless – Hydrologist | NOAA National Weather Service | [ray.nickless@noaa.gov](mailto:ray.nickless@noaa.gov)

**Speaker Bio:**

**Arin Peters** has spent over 4 years as a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Great Falls, MT. Previously he was a forecasting hydrologist for Montana’s Upper Missouri River Basin and North Dakota’s Upper Dakota Tributaries. **Ray Nickless** has worked as a service hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Missoula, MT for 27 years. He has studied and investigated the impacts of runoff from forest fire burn areas since 2000 and published his findings.

10:15 am – 11:00 am

#### **DNRC Fire Activity and Resources for the 2021 Season**

**Description:** Wildland fires impacts all Montanans. This presentation reviews Montana’s 2021 fire season and shares how interactive fire tools and resources, combined with management measures, can mitigate the risk of losses from wildland fire or floods after fire. It will highlight resources available for public use and outreach, including the new fire website, Montana Wildfire Risk Assessment, and data from the Quantitative MWRA Framework. **CECs: Pending**

**Presenter:** Erik Warrington – Stewardship Program | MT DNRC, Forestry Bureau | [ewarrington@mt.gov](mailto:ewarrington@mt.gov)

**Speaker Bio:** Erik is the Stewardship Program Manager for the Montana DNRC Forestry in Missoula, MT. The Stewardship Program provides education, technical, and financial assistance to private and community forest landowners within the state; to support active and sustainable forest management objectives. Erik manages several DNRC grant programs and is a member of the Montana Tree Farm Steering Committee.



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1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

#### **FEMA’s Flood After Fire Program**

##### **Description**

This presentation will explain why there is a change in flood risk due to a wildfire and share how to best inform communities as to the change in flood risk. Emphasis and discussion will include how to communicate the importance of having flood insurance to help mitigate a potential flood event, and common misconceptions about insurance. **CECs: Pending**

##### **Presenters**

Tracie J Harrison, BS, CFM – Mitigation Specialist | Mitigation Division | FEMA Region 8 | [tracie.harrison@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:tracie.harrison@fema.dhs.gov)

Peter Reinhardt, CFM – Mitigation Specialist | Mitigation Division | FEMA Region 8 | [peter.reinhardt@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:peter.reinhardt@fema.dhs.gov)

##### **Speaker Bio:**

**Tracie Harrison** earned her B.S. degree from the University of Utah after working in the insurance industry for 17 years. She joined FEMA in 2018 and provides Flood After Fire risk education and outreach to communities and states impacted by wildfires. She enjoys reading, gardening and outings with her dog Daisy.

For over 15 years **Peter Reinhardt** has worked in floodplain management for both the private and public sectors. He had been at FEMA for the past 2 years. He enjoys hiking, fly fishing, and skiing.

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

#### **Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants Overview Presentation**

##### **Description**

The purpose of this presentation is to give an overview of the 3 HMA grant programs that mitigation administers.

**CECs: Pending**

##### **Presenters**

Joan Huston – Senior Hazard Mitigation Tribal Program Manager | [Joan.Huston@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Joan.Huston@fema.dhs.gov)

Mitch Levinson – Hazard Mitigation Program Manager | State of Montana | [Mitchell.Levinson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Levinson@fema.dhs.gov)

##### **Speaker Bio:**

**Joan Huston** has worked with FEMA over 18 years in various disaster roles – including outreach, long-term recovery, environmental and mitigation grants. She is a Certified Federal Grants Manager and manages federal mitigation grants for the 29 Tribes within the states of Montana, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota

**Mitch Levinson** hails from Chicago and has worked with FEMA for 7 years as a liaison for Regions 1, 3, 5, and 6. He hosted the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Stakeholders Workshop in Emmitsburg, Maryland and currently serves as the Region 8 program manager for Montana.

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

#### **Montana Hazard Mitigation**

**Description:** This workshop will focus on fire mitigation, recovery, and regional planning. **CECs: Pending**

**Presenter:** Sara Hartley, CFM – State Hazard Mitigation Officer | Montana Disaster & Emergency Services  
[sara.hartley@mt.gov](mailto:sara.hartley@mt.gov)

**Speaker Bio:** Sara Hartley, CFM, is experienced with disaster recovery, fire hazards, post-fire flooding, and FEMA HMA funding having worked as the state director in Montana since 2019. Previously she directed HMR in Colorado.



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## *“Managing Floods After Droughts and Fires”*

### AGENDA

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Mapping

9:00 am – 10:15 am

#### Using Flood Maps and Flood Studies

##### Description

This session will focus on the nuts and bolts of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS). We will walk through the different components and terms you come across when looking at FIRMs and FIS - what they mean, how they fit together, and why it matters. **CECs: To be announced**

##### Presenters

Peri Turk, EI, CFM – Floodplain Mapping Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | [peri.turk@mt.gov](mailto:peri.turk@mt.gov)

Tiffany Lyden – Outreach Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | [tlyden@mt.gov](mailto:tlyden@mt.gov)

##### Speaker Bio:

**Peri Turk** works for the DNRC as a Mapping Engineering Specialist. She tracks LOMC's, assists in reviewing current and upcoming floodplain studies, assists leveed communities, and helps manage the RiskMAP project.

**Tiffany Lyden** has worked with the DNRC's Floodplain Mapping program for 9 years. She finds her previous work as the Lake County floodplain administrator useful as she works around the state helping communities with mapping updates.

10:15 am – 11:00 am

#### Understanding Floodplain Maps and the Flood Study Process

##### Description

Where do those lines on your floodplain maps come from? This presentation will provide background and history as to how older floodplain maps were generated. Then it will dive into how flood data is used today to develop new floodplain maps in Montana. The session will also cover available data derived from floodplain studies and how to use it. **CECs: To be announced**

##### Presenters

Katie Shank – Flood Hazard GIS Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | [Katherine.shank@mt.gov](mailto:Katherine.shank@mt.gov)

Tiffany Lyden – Outreach Specialist, MT DNRC Floodplain Program | [tlyden@mt.gov](mailto:tlyden@mt.gov)

##### Speaker Bio:

**Katie Shank** has worked with the DNRC for over two years where she manages LiDAR collections, data analysis, and cartography. She enjoys travelling and can often be found exploring Montana with her two dogs.

**Tiffany Lyden** has worked with the DNRC's Floodplain Mapping program for 9 years. She finds her previous work as the Lake County floodplain administrator useful as she works around the state helping communities with mapping updates.



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11:00 pm – 12:00 pm

#### **FEMA Mitigation Resources and Tools**

##### **Description**

How can floodplain managers participate and support the mitigation planning process? In this presentation, members of the FEMA Region 8 team will discuss the importance of mitigation planning and how floodplain managers can successfully integrate into the process to better protect communities. The session will also feature a variety of mitigation resources and tools to create a stronger connection to mitigation planning. **CECs: Pending**

##### **Presenters**

Terri Baumann - Senior Communications Specialist | Mitigation Planning | FEMA Region 8 | [terri.baumann@ogilvy.com](mailto:terri.baumann@ogilvy.com)

Mark English – Senior Program Manager | Mitigation Planning | FEMA Region 8 | [mark.english@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:mark.english@fema.dhs.gov)

Logan Sand – Acting Senior Community Planner | Mitigation Planning | FEMA Region 8 | [logan.sand@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:logan.sand@fema.dhs.gov)

##### **Speaker Bios**

**Terri Baumann** is a specialist with Resilience Action Partners, a joint venture between Ogilvy and Michael Baker International supporting FEMA’s Community Engagement and Risk Communications contract. Terri manages community engagement and communications where she regularly distills complex policy into simple communications about the importance of flood risk.

With more than 20 years of experience, **Mark English** is an expert in risk mitigation, disaster response and recovery, and geospatial modeling. He has assisted with a variety of disaster declarations such as Hurricanes Florence, Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Sandy, and tornadoes in the Oklahoma region.

**Logan Sand** serves Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming and works with State, tribal, and local officials to develop and implement climate resilient mitigation and adaptation strategies to equitably reduce vulnerability to future hazards. Logan conducts trainings and consultations and provides technical support to communities to integrate natural hazards into various regulatory and investment mechanisms related to land use.

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

#### **Channel-Width Characteristics to Estimate Peak-Flow Frequencies at Ungauged Sites**

##### **Description**

The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Montana Department of Transportation, developed regression equations based on channel width to estimate peak-flow frequencies at ungauged sites in Montana. Chase will share how channel-width regression equations can be used to estimate peak-flow frequencies at ungauged sites in eight hydrologic regions of Montana. **CECs: Pending**

**Presenter:** Katherine J. Chase – PE, Hydrologist, USGS Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center | [kchase@usgs.gov](mailto:kchase@usgs.gov)

**Speaker Bio:** Katherine Chase, works as a surface water specialist performing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, floodplain delineation, statistical analyses, and hydraulic structure design and evaluation. Her research focuses on precipitation-runoff modeling, 1-dimensional and 2-dimensional surface-water hydraulics, streamflow statistics, floodplain delineation, channel morphology, and bridge scour.